

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02511 210632Z

11
ACTION EA-09

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INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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1. TRADE AGREEMENT WITH VIET-NAM
2. FLOOD SITUATION
3. PETROLEUM NOTES
4. NARCOTICS: LO HSING-HAN TRIAL
5. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES AND ARRESTS
6. NARCOTICS: DEA VISIT
7. BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION ENDS SUCCESSFUL RUN

1. TRADE AGREEMENT WITH VIET-NAM (UNCL)

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02511 210632Z

A GUB TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER FOR TRADE

U HLA AYE DEPARTED FOR HANOI ON JULY 14. THE DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDED THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE MYANMA EXPORT-IMPORT CORPORATION, WAS INVITED TO HANOI BY THE SRV TO HOLD TALKS ON PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE DELEGATION SIGNED A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH VIET-NAM ON JULY 16. FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE AGREEMENT ARE STILL LACKING AS THE DELEGATION HAS NOT YET RETURNED FROM ITS SCHEDULED 10-DAY STAY IN VIET-NAM.

2. FLOOD SITUATION (UNCL)

BURMA'S PRESS CONTINUES TO DEVOTE MUCH ATTENTION TO THE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. ONE REPORT NOTED THAT HEAVY RAINS AND HIGH WATERS DISRUPTED RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN MANDALAY AND MYITKYINA, BUT IT HAS SINCE BEEN RESTORED. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES VISITED BURMA LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE FLOOD SITUATION WITH GUB OFFICIALS.

COMMENT: DESPITE THESE CONSTANT REPORTS, THE FLOOD SITUATION STILL APPEARS NO WORSE THAN NORMAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, THOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR FLOOD CANNOT YET BE RULED OUT.

3. PETROLEUM NOTES (LOU)

THE YENANGYAUNG CHAUK OIL PIPELINE WAS FORMALLY OPENED ON JULY 16. THIS 32-MILE CONNECTION IS MADE UP OF OLD PIPELINE OF SIX AND EIGHT INCHES AND SOME NEWLY ACQUIRED TEN-INCH PIPES. IT REPRESENTS RECONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE SYSTEM THAT WAS DESTROYED NEARLY 35 YEARS AGO DURING WORLD WAR II. GUB OFFICIALS EXPECT THE PIPELINE TO REDUCE TIME AND COST OF TRANSPORTING CRUDE FROM YENANGYAUNG TO CHAUK.

OFFSHORE, ESSO'S PRESENT HOLE IS DOWN TO 6700 FEET WHERE HIGH PRESSURE GAS WAS ENCOUNTERED. APPARENTLY THIS HIGH PRESSURE CONTACT GAVE RISE TO RUMORS THAT ESSO HAD HAD AN "OIL SHOW" IN THIS HOLE. ESSO OFFICIALS DENY THIS AND CLAIM THE HIGH PRESSURE DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR PROSPECTS OF FINDING PETROLEUM. NEVERTHELESS, ESSO NOW PLANS TO CONTINUE DRILLING DOWN TO 12,000 OR 13,000 FEET.

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PAGE 03 RANGOO 02511 210632Z

4. NARCOTICS: LO HSING-HAN TRIAL (UNCL)

RETURNING TO THE WITNESS STAND IN A TRIAL SESSION ON JULY 13, LO HSING-HAN CONTINUED HIS TESTIMONY RECOUNTING HIS VERSION OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE DISBANDMENT OF HIS KHAKWEYI (SELF-DEFENSE FORCE) AND EVENTUAL CAPTURE. AGAIN, HIS TESTIMONY WAS LARGELY SELF-SERVING AND, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, CONTRADICTORY TO THE STORY TOLD

IN ADRIAN COWELL'S FILM, "THE OPIUM WARLORDS." LO SAID THAT THE SHAN STATE ARMY (SSA) APPROACHED LO, ASKED HIM TO JOIN FORCES, AND OFFERED THE POST OF "SUPREME COMMANDER." LO SAID HE TOLD THE SSA THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT ITS OFFER "AS HE HAD NO WISH TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT."

5. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES AND ARRESTS (UNCL)

SWEEPS IN BURMA'S MAJOR URBAN AREAS CONTINUED DURING THE PAST WEEK. IN TAUNGGYI 61 MORE DRUG ABUSERS WERE ARRESTED, MAKING A TOTAL OF 125 ARRESTS OF ADDICTS THERE DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. THREE OTHER ARRESTS WERE MADE IN TWO SEPARATE ACTIONS, ONE OF WHICH INVOLVED THE SEIZURE (IN HOPIN) OF 18 VISS (29.5 KILOGRAMS) OF RAW OPIUM WORTH APPROXIMATELY K. 74,000.

6. NARCOTICS: DEA VISIT (UNCL)

TWO DEA OFFICIALS FROM THE BANGKOK REGIONAL OFFICE, MESSRS. CUNNINGHAM AD SWAIN, VISITED RANGOON AND HAD TALKS WITH SENIOR ANTI-NARCOTICS OFFICIALS AND REHABILITATION EXPERTS DURING THE WEEK. THE TALKS WERE TERMED SUCCESSFUL AND FRUITFUL BY BOTH SIDES. (SEE RANGOON 2481.)

7. BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION ENDS SUCCESSFUL RUN (UNCL)

AFTER A 17-DAY PUBLIC RUN, THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION CLOSED AFTER MORE THAN 210,000 PERSONS HAD PASSED THROUGH THE GATES. FROM JULY 2 TO 18, THE EXHIBITION WAS VISITED BY THREE MINISTERS (CULTURE, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION), SEVERAL DEPUTY MINISTERS, A HALF-DOZEN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, DOZENS OF DIRECTORS GENERAL AND PLATOONS OF OTHER HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 19,000 STUDENTS FROM 54 SCHOOLS, FROM AS FAR AWAY AS PEGU, WERE GIVEN SPECIALLY CONDUCTED TOURS OF THE EXHIBITION.

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PAGE 04 RANGOO 02511 210632Z

GREATEST BURMESE INTEREST WAS IN THE EXHIBIT, "BURMESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS," WHICH ILLUSTRATED CONTACTS WHICH GO BACK MORE THAN 150 YEARS AND CONTINUE WITH EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES TODAY. MOST VISITORS, MANY OF WHOM SPENT HOURS COPYING INFORMATION FROM EXHIBIT PANELS ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN THE PARALLELS BETWEEN AMERICA'S STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THE BURMESE EXPERIENCE.

THE CROWD OF OVER 210,000 VISITORS MAKE THIS ONE OF THE BIGGEST FOREIGN OR LOCAL EXHIBITIONS IN MANY YEARS.

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